

Observatory Building  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

ALA  
HABS No. 18-231  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

OBSERVATORY BUILDING  
University of Alabama.  
Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owner: University of Alabama.

Previous Owners: University of Alabama.

Date Of Erection: 1844.

Architect: Thomas Nicholls. [Wrong]

Builder: University of Alabama.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: One story masonry.

Other Existing Records:

See: Birmingham News, June 24, 1934.

"ALABAMA POSSESSOR OF RICH HERITAGE"  
By E. Walter Burkhardt, A.P.I.

Birmingham News, August 12, 1934.

"UNIVERSITY ANTEBELLUM CHARM LINGERS"  
By Varian Feare, (Mrs. E. W. Burkhardt)

Additional Data: The Observatory building was authorized in 1840. This building was completed in 1844. It is in the Greek style of the other buildings now destroyed. It was splendidly equipped, ranking in its beginning as one of the best of the nation. Through the intercession of Mrs. Chapman, who dared to face the federal soldiers and defend the right of this, then important building, it was saved from destruction. Its contents are said to have been destroyed, however. Today it stands unused, a sentinel of the past.

Source of Material: E. Walter Burkhardt, A.P.I.  
Auburn, Alabama.

Compiled by:

Katherine Floyd.  
Auburn, Alabama.

Approved:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer,  
H.A.B.S. Auburn, Alabama.

Date: 12-2-1936.

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